



GORDON OLIVER
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Parks and Recreation Commission

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ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

THOMAS BOSCARINO
CYNTHIA COSTANZO
KEVIN HAYES
ROBERT LAREW
THOMAS STAUFFER
SHAY DRAKE
CHRISTOPHER WEITZ
MATTHEW MAZNICKI

Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting Minutes 7:00 p.m. September 2, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Boscarino, Tom Stauffer, Shay Drake,
Matt Maznicki, Cyndi Costanzo, and Chris Weitz

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Tedford, Recreation Director

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Tom Boscarino called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

III. PUBLIC FORUM:

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

V. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Review/discuss projected STEAP grant submittal for 2015
- B. Review /discuss short and long term athletic field(s) field rotation.

- A. The commission members' present reviewed a "draft" (STEAP GRANT) of a proposed Town of Ellington application for 2015 but expected to be submitted within an expedited time frame. After a thorough review of the "draft" the following consensus was agreed upon by the attending members:

The Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 for a special meeting to discuss the proposed resubmission of the STEAP grant application to install field lighting at the tennis court complex and football field complex located at Schwartz Park (tennis courts) and Ellington High School (football field).

The Recreation Commission agreed by full consensus that the previously submitted STEAP grant represents only a partial solution to expand field usage and access for members of the Ellington community. Although lighting an existing field will extend the number of available hours per day to use the field, expanded use of the field will likely result in field overuse and degradation. The commission believes the STEAP grant should be revised to include installation of artificial turf on the football field. The installation of the artificial turf is an investment in the Town of Ellington and the community. It is also a prudent economic decision as ample research indicates that field turf is more cost efficient to operate, when considering the number of hours of daily usage.

The Recreation Commission is proposing that the expanded project of artificial field turf and lights on the football field and lighting for the tennis courts be funded with a \$500,000.00 STEAP grant, \$500,000.00 of matched funds underwritten by the Town of Ellington, and the balance to be raised through a joint effort of private fundraising (anticipated \$200,000.00). This proposal is supported by the Ellington Athletic Booster Club, Ellington Football Boosters, and Ellington Youth Football. Successful acquisition of funding to support this plan requires the commitment from all town constituencies. The project will have a broad impact on the community at-large and it is therefore the position of the Parks & Recreation Commission that a document usage plan (Board of Education/Parks and Recreation) is included in the application.

- B. Bob Tedford referenced the 'packet' of information that was distributed, highlighting the past surveys (through 2010) and the current field usage figures that pertain to Parks and Recreation and Board of Education programs. It is clear that the current(exterior) athletic facilities are being used to the maximum degree possible, especially soccer, football and lacrosse fields, and that an agreed upon 'rotation' system must be looked at once the Pinney Street Athletic Fields are released for use.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. ADJOURN:

MOVED (T BOSCARINO), SECONDED (C.COSTANZO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT (7:56 p.m.)